

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 662

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to designate March 28, 2012, as "Tennessee Campus Compact Day on the Hill".

WHEREAS, service-learning is a credit-bearing, educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility. Service-learning is a valued component of effective teaching and learning, meeting institutional civic responsibilities to help address the needs of the state, and fostering development of collaborative partnerships between and among campuses; and

WHEREAS, service-learning projects involve students in their local communities, addressing issues of poverty, hunger, housing, the environment, and educational attainment. Through service-learning courses, college student mentors may assist youth with high school completion and college access. As more mentors assist youth with high school completion and college access, more at-risk youth will graduate high school and enter post-secondary institutions. More college students will mentor more youth in local communities. More Tennesseans will attain degrees and become civically engaged. Students active in local communities will enhance community roots that contribute to their staying in Tennessee upon graduation to become future leaders; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly encourages schools, school districts, colleges and universities, and community-based, non-profit, and faith-based organizations to join the TNCC membership coalition to work toward providing students with more service-learning opportunities. It also urges colleges and universities to support the mission of the TNCC to encourage students and faculty to pursue substantive volunteer, service-learning and civic

engagement activities as a central method of effective pedagogy that leads to personal and community development; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly acknowledges that since 2007, TNCC – on a budget of \$160,000 – has mobilized over 64,423 community volunteers providing 500,000 hours of service, generating \$460,000 in cash resources and \$7,400,000 in non-cash resources to institutions and communities, leveraging over \$11,000,000 in federal resources within Tennessee. TNCC has trained over 2,300 college and university faculty members in service-learning curriculum integration. A dozen new central units for service-learning have been established by member institutions. Seven of them have been awarded the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. In 2010-2011, 14 institutions in the TBR, UT, and TICUA systems received national recognition through the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll; and

WHEREAS, the relative absence of service-learning as a valued activity in review, tenure, and promotion criteria not only limits faculty incentives to develop community-based teaching and research, but acts as a barrier to the development and institutionalization of community engagement in American higher education. In spring 2012, the TNCC will begin the process of developing language for institutional procedures of review, promotion, and tenure that may serve as a guide or set of best practices for its member institutions across Tennessee. The goal is to help shape an appropriate set of standards that ensure TNCC member institutions can best empower, support, and reward community engaged faculty; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly expresses support for the sustainability of the TNCC through a diversified funding plan as recommended by the National Campus Compact and practiced by 36 other existing State Campus Compacts. Sources include: membership dues; student service fees; host institution contributions; state legislature appropriations; endowments; and federal, state, foundation, and corporate grants. TNCC revenue shall be utilized to support a central administrative office graciously hosted at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee to develop a national network of partnerships between institutions of higher education and

private and federal partners to strengthen and renew communities, thus improving public economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes TNCC as a key state partner that is addressing issues of access, diversity, retention, graduation, and workforce development. By leveraging over \$11,000,000 in non-state funds, TNCC has contributed to the economic development of communities across the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that in support of service-learning as a teaching method to benefit student learning and in support of the establishment of the Tennessee Campus Compact and its leadership in service-learning, community-based research, and other forms of civic engagement to improve student learning outcomes, we hereby designate March 28, 2012, as "Tennessee Campus Compact Day on the Hill".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.